

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 21, 2001 LB 827

to take place in this country. They said that the barn was...barn door was closed, the horse was gone, and rural Nebraska was in the kind of a position now that they ought to forget about family farms and get into the supply chain agriculture. And so when I see these little pamphlets from the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City I get a little bit...a little bit of heartburn. I'm not sure how much I trust that outfit. I'd like to ask a question of Senator Bromm, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, would you yield to a question, please?

SENATOR BROMM: Yes, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Bromm, I have a letter from a lady from my district, Bloomfield. Many of you may have gotten this letter. I see she copied it to all of our congressional delegation, as well as Governor Johanns and the Nebraska Public Service Commission. And it deals with her personal...she and her son's personal business of developing the Internet for northeast Nebraska. And she tells the story about how the provider that she has is one of the local phone companies, but they seem to try to discourage the business. And I think she indicated in the letter that they've spent \$80,000 a year with this phone company, yet, the phone company keeps trying to keep them out of business, and I just wondered...the name of this is called Northeast Nebraska ComNET. That stands for "community network". I wonder if you could tell me, with the results of this bill, would some of those dollars that we're talking about go to her, or would they go to the phone companies trying to discourage her from the business?

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Dierks, if this bill would come into play in that at all it would be pursuant to an application from either the city or the county that she's in that would make application to the Public Service Commission for some grant funds to help provide some advanced technology, and the Public Service Commission would then make a decision on whether to award that grant to that city or that county. The city or county would have to present whatever their contractual arrangement is to the Public Service Commission, whether it's